

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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ABC TARGETS ADULTS WHO FURNISH ALCOHOL TO MINORS

Investigators from the Yuba City Office of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), assisted by Orland Police Department, arrested 3 suspects last Tuesday night in Orland for furnishing alcoholic beverages to a minor.

The investigators conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which targets adults who purchase alcohol for people under 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol.

If the adults comply, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The State Legislature recently increased the penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor from a \$250 dollar fine to a minimum \$1,000 fine, and 24 hours of community service.

The program is designed to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can physically damage the brain; interfere with mental and social development; interrupt academic progress; increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, and crime; compromise health; and result in unintentional injury and death.

For more information on the operation, contact the district administrator or district supervisor at 751-8570.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Marie Contreras-Sweet, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.